



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

March 1, 2005

The Honorable Board of Directors  
Los Angeles County  
Regional Park and Open Space District  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS  
TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY,  
CITIES EXCESS FUNDS TO THE CITY OF LONG BEACH, AND  
AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF EXCESS FUNDS GRANTS  
(FOURTH DISTRICT - 3 - VOTE MATTER)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Find that the proposed projects are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to the sections of the State CEQA Guidelines and classes of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, cited herein.
2. Allocate Fourth Supervisorial District Specified Excess Funds in the amount of \$200,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the acquisition of property adjacent to the Los Angeles River by the City of Long Beach.
3. Allocate Fourth Supervisorial District Cities Excess Funds to the City of Long Beach in the amount of \$80,000 for playground renovation at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, \$100,000 for the development of 21<sup>st</sup> to Hill Mini Park, and \$85,000 for the development of Rotary Park.
4. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to award grants to the City of Long Beach when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the

grants as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Approval of the second recommendation will allocate \$200,000 in Specified Excess Funds to the MRCA towards the acquisition of an existing building at 620 San Francisco Avenue, adjacent to the Los Angeles River in the City of Long Beach. The total project cost of the acquisition is \$1,632,175 funded with \$1,432,175 in other funds.

The MRCA, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), will assign the right to apply for the funds to the City of Long Beach for the Drake-Chavez Greenbelt Park Acquisition Project. After the acquisition, the City will convert the building to an environmental education center and it will become part of a greenbelt linking the City's Drake and Cesar Chavez Parks. The new 24-acre park will also feature passive play areas, native plantings, open turf space, wetlands and other native habitat along the river as well as trail heads to provide recreational access to the Los Angeles River trail system.

Approval of the third recommendation will allocate \$265,000 in Cities Excess Funds to the City of Long Beach for the following projects:

- \$80,000 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Playground Renovation Project that will include new play equipment, resilient surfacing and other site amenities;
- \$100,000 for the 21<sup>st</sup> to Hill Mini Park Improvement Project that will include automatic irrigation, turf, a walking path and low-water landscaping; and
- \$85,000 for the Rotary Park Improvement Project that will include a shade shelter and adjacent site amenities. The total project cost is \$563,000 which includes \$478,000 from other funding sources.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The City of Long Beach meets this requirement.

Finally, it is recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award the grants to the City of Long Beach, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and to administer the grants under procedures previously approved by your Board.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility) and Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) by allocating Excess Funds for enhanced recreational and environmental education opportunities in the City of Long Beach.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of \$465,000 is budgeted in the Fourth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

Funds for the grants are available from the Fourth Supervisorial District's portion of the Regional Park and Open Space District allocations of Excess Funds for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grants would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fourth Supervisorial District for highest priority regional open space and recreation projects including projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries and from Excess Funds available for cities.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 17, 1997, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants for Specified and Per Parcel projects. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants as well.

County Counsel has reviewed these actions as to form.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The recommended projects will provide additional recreational and environmental education opportunities in the City of Long Beach in the Fourth Supervisorial District.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed acquisition and conversion of an existing building for the Drake-Chavez Greenbelt Park Acquisition Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Sections 15325 (f), of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 25 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for transfers of ownership of interests in land to preserve existing natural conditions.

The proposed Martin Luther King, Jr. Improvement project is categorically exempt from the CEQA according to Sections 15301 (d) and 15303 (e) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1 (c) and 3 (b) of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for restoration and rehabilitation of existing facilities and installation of accessory facilities.

The proposed Hill Mini Park Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the CEQA according to Sections 15303 (d) (e) and 15304 (a) (b) of the State CEQA guidelines and Classes 3 (a) and 4 (a) (c) of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for installation of accessory facilities and minor alterations to land including grading and new landscaping.

The proposed Rotary Park Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the CEQA according to Section 15303 (e) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 3 (b) of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for installation of accessory facilities.

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These projects funded through the District are also required to undergo the applicable CEQA review by the City of Long Beach.

**CONCLUSION**

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,



Russ Guiney  
Director, Parks and Recreation

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)  
County Counsel